

ADMINISTRATION

ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK

Management of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary encompasses three types of activities and programs — resource protection, research, and interpretation and education. The administrative framework ensures that all management activities are coordinated and identifies who is responsible for implementing specific programs.

The Marine and Estuarine Management Division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, is responsible for overall management of the sanctuary. The Division coordinates its on-site activities and cooperates with the California Department of Fish and Game and the Western Regional Office of the National Park Service including the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and the Point Reyes National Seashore. These agencies participate in sanctuary management according to cooperative agreements with the Marine and Estuarine Management Division. The general administrative role of each agency for management of this sanctuary is as follows.



Marine and Estuarine Management Division

The National Marine Sanctuary Program is administered by the Marine and Estuarine Management Division. Program regulations require that the Division prepare a management plan for the sanctuary to ensure that proposals for resource protection, research, interpretation and education are coordinated and consistent with sanctuary goals and objectives. The Marine and Estuarine Management Division is responsible for implementing this plan through funding of on-site operations and interagency agreements.

The Marine and Estuarine Management Division in Washington, D.C., in collaboration with the Sanctuary Manager, develops an annual budget setting out expenditures for program development, operating costs, and staffing. Funding priorities are reviewed and adjusted annually to reflect evolving conditions in the sanctuary and overall National Marine Sanctuary Program priorities and requirements. The Marine and Estuarine Management Division in Washington, D.C. is also responsible for establishing policies and procedures in response to specific issues in the sanctuary. The complete set of responsibilities held by this office is detailed under resource protection, research, and interpretation and education in Appendix 5.

The Sanctuary Manager represents the Marine and Estuarine Management Division at the sanctuary. The Manager is responsible for liaison with other Federal and state agencies responsible for some aspect of sanctuary management and implementation of education and resource protection projects. The Manager's headquarters are located at Fort Mason, San Francisco. Specific responsibilities of the Sanctuary Manager and his/her staff are outlined in Appendix 5.

National Park Service

Through an interagency agreement with the Marine and Estuarine Management Division, the Western Regional Office of the National Park Service provides administrative services, logistical support and coordinates activities between the sanctuary, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and the Point Reyes National Seashore. As part of this agreement a Deputy Sanctuary Manager was appointed through the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

The Marine and Estuarine Management Division also has an agreement with the National Park Service for interpretive services at the Point Reyes National Seashore. National Seashore interpreters carry out education programs at the Lighthouse and include the sanctuary in their discussions. The Point Reyes National Seashore Superintendent supervises and informs the rangers.

California Department of Fish and Game

The California Department of Fish and Game is responsible for the management of living marine resources in California (Fish and Game Code, Title 14 of the California Administrative Code). Management in marine areas is aimed at the conservation, maintenance, and utilization of living marine resources. This mandate extends throughout state waters of California, including the state waters' portion of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary.

Through a cooperative agreement, the Marine and Estuarine Management Division has provided funds to the California Department of Fish and Game to enforce sanctuary regulations and to supplement its enforcement of living marine resource regulations within the sanctuary. The chief responsibility for carrying out on-site enforcement rests with a Sanctuary Warden.

Other Agencies and Organizations

Many other Federal, state, and private non-profit organizations are involved in sanctuary management, some on an ongoing basis like the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Coast Guard, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the California Coastal Commission (see Section 2). There may be a requirement in the future to develop additional formal agreements with these organizations to undertake cooperative research, joint monitoring programs, and similar activities.